

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of allowing users of a computer-implemented application program running on a data processing system to manage add-ons associated with the application program, comprising:

(a) generating a user interface that identifies add-ons associated with an application program and responds to user input for managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons, the add-ons comprising small software programs pluggable into the application program for adding functionality to the application program; and

(b) in response to user input, managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons by:

- (i) determining if the user has selected a list of add-ons;
- (ii) if the user has selected a list of add-ons, determining if the user has selected a particular add-on from the list;
- (iii) if the user has selected a particular add-on from the list, determining if the user has chosen to disable or enable the particular add-on;
- (iv) if the user has chosen to disable the particular add-on, disabling the add-on; and
- (v) if the user has chosen to enable the add-on, enabling the add-on.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said add-ons are chosen from the group comprising ActiveX[®] controls, browser helper objects, and toolbar extensions.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said add-ons include ActiveX[®] controls, and wherein the method further comprises updating said ActiveX[®] controls, in response to user input.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least some of said add-ons are included in an explicit list of administrator-denied add-ons, and wherein the method further comprises prohibiting the enablement of said administrator-denied add-ons in response to user input.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least some of said add-ons are included in an explicit list of administrator-approved add-ons, and wherein the method further comprises allowing the disablement of said administrator-approved add-ons in response to user input.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein an administrator of the application program has the capacity to disable a user's ability to manage the add-ons.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said user interface identifies add-ons by displaying information selected from the group comprising the name of the add-on, the publisher of the add-on, the status of the add-on, the type of add-on, and the time when the add-on was lastly accessed.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said user interface includes at least one list of add-ons chosen from the group of lists comprising add-ons that have been used by the application program, add-ons currently loaded for use with the application program, and add-ons currently blocked for use with the application program.

9. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium containing computer-executable instructions that, when executed in a data processing device, allow the users of an application program to manage add-ons associated with the application program, the add-ons comprising generating a user interface that identifies add-ons associated with the application program and responding to user input for managing the enable/disable state of said

add-ons, the computer-executable instructions including instructions that, when executed, cause said data processing device to:

- (a) generate a user interface that identifies add-ons associated with the application program and responds to user input for managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons; and

- (b) in response to user input, manages the enable/disable state of said add-ons by:

- (i) determining if the user has selected a list of add-ons;
 - (ii) if the user has selected a list of add-ons, determining if the user has selected a particular add-on from the list;
 - (iii) if the user has selected a particular add-on from the list, determining if the user has chosen to disable or enable the particular add-on;
 - (iv) if the user has chosen to disable the particular add-on, disabling the add-on; and
 - (v) if the user has chosen to enable the add-on, enabling the add-on.

10. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 9, wherein said add-ons are chosen from the group comprising ActiveX[®] controls, browser helper objects, and toolbar extensions.

11. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 9, wherein said add-ons include ActiveX[®] controls, and wherein the method further comprises updating said ActiveX[®] controls, in response to user input.

12. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 9, wherein at least some of said add-ons are included in an explicit list of administrator-denied add-ons, and wherein the method further comprises prohibiting the enablement of said administrator-denied add-ons in response to user input.

13. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 9, wherein at least some of said add-ons are included in an explicit list of administrator-approved add-ons, and wherein the method further comprises allowing the disablement of said administrator-approved add-ons in response to user input.

14. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 9, wherein an administrator of the application program has the capacity to disable a user's ability to manage the add-ons.

15. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 9, wherein said user interface identifies add-ons by displaying information selected from the group comprising the name of the add-on, the publisher of the add-on, the status of the add-on, the type of add-on, and the time when the add-on was lastly accessed.

16. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 9, wherein said user interface includes at least one list of add-ons chosen from the group of lists comprising add-ons that have been used by the application program, add-ons currently loaded for use with the application program, and add-ons currently blocked for use with the application program.